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INDIANA COLLECTION  
*BICENTENNIAL*  
*COMMISSION*

REFERENCE LIBRARY

**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
TO PARTICIPATE IN  
INDIANA'S CELEBRATION OF THE 200TH  
BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA



The Indiana American Revolution Bicentennial  
Commission

Roger D. Branigin, Chairman

James M. Guthrie, Director

504 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

# MEMBERS OF THE INDIANA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

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\*Hon. Roger D. Branigin, Lafayette  
Mrs. James B. Dean, Valparaiso  
Dr. Jack J. Detzler, South Bend  
Charles N. Walker, Fort Wayne  
Dr. Harold E. Rendel, Peru  
Mrs. Herbert R. Hill, Fountaintown  
Dr. Donald F. Carmony, Bloomington  
Siegfried Weng, Newburgh  
Dr. James A. Joseph, Columbus  
Richard A. Greene, Muncie  
Dr. George M. Waller, Indianapolis

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Earl Wilson, Bedford  
Charles D. Wise, Muncie  
John F. Shawley, Michigan City

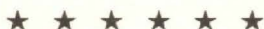
## HONORARY

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\* Chairman

The purpose of this brochure is to invite all Hoosiers to participate in the celebration of the 200th birthday of the greatest country in world history.

It is the hope of the Bicentennial Commission that individuals, groups, schools, churches, units of government, business, industry, labor and ALL other facets of our society will make special efforts to commemorate the event.



### **YOU ARE INVITED:**

To be a part of your community's plans...

To unite with others in programs...

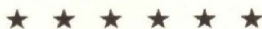
To help instill in our citizens a greater appreciation of those blessings won by the Founding Fathers...

To become a part of nationwide efforts being made to observe OUR birthday...



### **NOW IS THE TIME TO DEDICATE OURSELVES**

to the continuation of those ideals. Now is the time to begin planning and working for the nation's future so that we may leave to posterity a richer heritage than that left to us by our ancestors.



### **WON'T YOU DO YOUR PART?**

Won't you help see that your associates do theirs?

IN ORDER THAT EVERYONE MAY PARTICIPATE, the celebration of the BICENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA will use three general themes.

There are to be programs to celebrate the

## **PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**



ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL these are known as

**HERITAGE '76**

**FESTIVAL U.S.A.**

**and HORIZONS '76**



Not only will the BICENTENNIAL be an observance of the FIRST two hundred years of the nation's growth and development, it can be adapted to events of today and projected into the future through plans which we can begin to formulate now.

The COUNTRY'S BICENTENNIAL need not be for historians or just for fireworks and parades. It will be all-encompassing and meaningful to EVERYONE.

**ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES** are suggestions for things YOU and YOUR organizations might do to observe the BICENTENNIAL.



**PERHAPS A FEW OF THE PROJECTS** will appeal.



**PERHAPS THEY WILL INSPIRE** you to think of others.



**NO MATTER WHAT YOUR INTERESTS** or those of the groups to which you belong, there are numerous ways in which to participate.



**COOPERATE** in spear-heading the **FORMATION** of a city or county BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE to aid the state's AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION. GET A GOOD CROSS-SECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MANY ORGANIZATIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

## FOR THE HISTORICALLY-MINDED

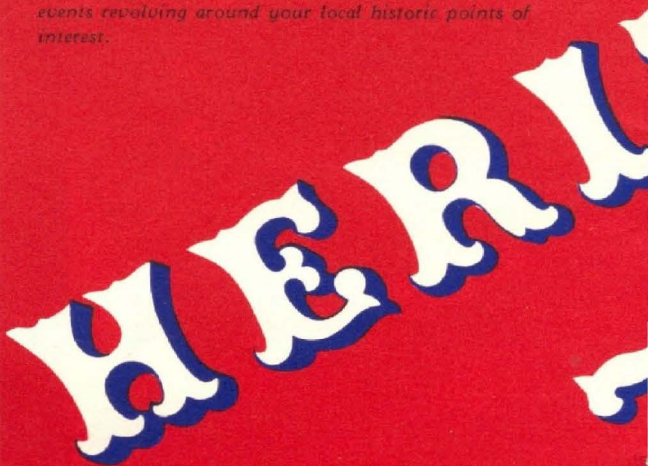
*Honor the founders of the nation and have special programs for their birthdays—with emphasis on those who were active in the Western Theater of Operations.*

*Research your county's cemeteries, especially those where veterans of the American Revolution lie buried. Clean them up, restore the headstones.*

*Write or update county or community histories. Even if the work amounts to no more than the collection of information, DO IT.*

*Conduct surveys on historic structures which should be preserved. Photograph and collect information on those buildings which cannot be preserved.*

*Help see that there are interesting programs and events revolving around your local historic points of interest.*



*Do research on the old highways, byways, traces and waterways of our forefathers for those who may wish to mark them, or create hiking and biking trails.*

*Learn about old fashioned, patriotic programs in order that they may be re-enacted by capable people.*

*History teachers and historical society members might serve as speakers for special programs, as well as volunteering to speak for the State Bicentennial Speakers Bureau.*

*If your county, city, township, street, road, school or park happens to be named for a Revolutionary War veteran, honor his memory. Learn about him and tell what he did for his country and why his memory is honored.*

*Personnel of historical societies, libraries and museums might undertake a program of furnishing local newspapers, radio and television stations with information pertaining to events and persons connected with the American Revolution.*

# THINGS

*Naming some living descendants of veterans in the community might be of interest to many, and local D.A.R. and S.A.R. members can easily provide the information.*

*Exhibit articles and manuscripts dating from the Colonial Period in museums, libraries and store windows.*

*Encourage historians to research old newspaper, library, county and city office files for interesting bits of information pertaining to the nation's founding.*

*Determine if there are upcoming anniversaries of the founding of your county, city, township or other things in your area. They might well be tied in with the national program.*

*Do the background work for those who will sponsor historical markers in your area. There are too few in most counties of Indiana.*

*Do research on such things as party games, socials, songs and mores of our ancestors. There are all sorts of groups who would like to know them and use the information in programs.*

*Plan historical tours in your area.*

**THESE THINGS AND MORE CAN BE A  
PART OF YOUR HERITAGE '76.**

## **SOME THINGS TO DO DURING THE FESTIVAL U.S.A. CELEBRATION**

Encourage ALL groups to use the Bicentennial Theme during the time of the celebration. This is especially appropriate for on-going, regularly-scheduled events such as county fairs, 4th of July, Labor Day, Old Settlers and others.

**GET BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND LABOR INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM.**

Have joint meetings of clubs to enjoy Bicentennial-oriented programs.

Invite old residents and descendants of pioneer families to return for special festivities, and recognize them. This is a fine time for special reunions of every kind.

Hold symposia with knowledgeable people leading in discussions to learn more about our heritage.

Conduct area and local tours to acquaint people with the history of the area.

Make arrangements for film programs for groups which can use them. A large number of films exist and many are being made especially for the big birthday party.

If your area has no hiking or biking trails now is a good time to begin them. How about connecting these traces with those in neighboring counties? Give them a purpose—let them lead to small communities and pioneer settlements or through historic parts of the county.

Sponsor the erection of historical markers.

Sponsor special social events. Old fashioned Halloween, Thanksgiving, 4th of July, Christmas and New Year's parties might be fun.

Dance groups should be invited to give demonstrations of Colonial Period dancing . . .

# **FESTIV**

If your county (or city) does not have one, SOMEONE should prepare a GOOD map. Particularly a map which has to do with local heritage. Natives and tourists alike will love it.

If your county is along the Wabash or Ohio Rivers, the Buffalo, Red Banks, Sauk, Wea Hunting or other traces, there can be an authentic re-enactment of some event pertaining to the Revolutionary Period.

A project which has become popular in recent years is that of burying a Time-capsule in a prominent place. In one can be placed personal letters to posterity to tell about yourself and life in the 1970s. Imagine the thrill YOU would have of opening a personal letter from an ancestor written in 1776!!

Maybe your community can erect a Liberty Pole (a flag pole?) or plant a Liberty Tree? Our forefathers did.

All schools should be encouraged to use the heritage theme throughout the years ahead. There is no limit to what can be done in the schools. Each should have a Bicentennial Committee formed and operating NOW.

If there is no local historical society, start one. If there is an existing historical society, join it. Encourage membership in the State's Historical Society (it is one of the nation's best).

Start a museum in your community if there is none. Contribute to your museum if you have one. A continuing project can be that of interesting business and industry to contribute old records and samples of products to the museum. Another is to encourage local newspapers to contribute their "old" photographs to the museum once finished with them. Posterity will love you for this.

If you have a GOOD USE, consider the restoration of an historic building in danger of collapse or destruction. Every community has something of interest to enhance, to preserve or reconstruct. This is a fertile field for senior citizens and retired groups.

# FESTIVAL USA

This is the time  
to get around  
to visit some of Indiana's  
many attractions, for  
the welcome mat will be out  
EVERYWHERE. Watch for  
calendars of events.

As a Bicentennial Project, renew blighted areas of the county. Sponsor tours, mark and dedicate graves, plan celebrations in all four corners of the county, purchase some of the new, fine history books and give them to your libraries, have a Continental Army Camp, have a Colonial Ball, get Little Theater to do an OLD play.

Business and labor might give American Revolution oriented awards for outstanding efforts on the part of citizens.

## FLY THE NATIONAL AND STATE FLAGS

28 million **additional** visitors to the United States are anticipated during the Bicentennial program. Many will be coming to Indiana to see the 500, our State Fair, the Madison Regatta and other regularly scheduled events. Now is the best time to put out the welcome mat, plan for visitors and decide how best we can display Hoosier hospitality.

Think of some of the things your group should be doing for FESTIVAL U.S.A.

# AND FOR THE FUTURE.....

The period of national observance may just well be the time to begin work in earnest on civic enterprises which need to be done. Things which everyone knows about, but seem to have lacked the spark of enthusiasm required to get going.

What does your community need? A decent City Hall? A GOOD disposal plant? A police station to be proud of? A landfill? The fairgrounds modernized? A volunteer fire department in townships which do not now have one? The 200th birthday of the U.S. of A. is a good time to start.

Is your town beginning to die on the vine? Is there enough community spirit left for a SMALL TOWN REVIVAL? Urban density has its drawbacks. . . .

Establish a group of LONG RANGERS\* in your community to tackle those vital problems which SOMEONE must begin to solve. Every civic organization should have a committee to plan for the future and delineate how best to shape it. Encourage the beginning of goal-setting programs. Become a LONG RANGER.

THINK of the long-lasting benefit programs for YOUR TOWN, INDIANA, which will help commemorate the BICENTENNIAL.

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# HORIZONS

THAT'S  
WHAT  
HORIZONS '76  
IS ALL ABOUT.

*\* LONG RANGERS was a dream of the late Hoosier architect Ed Pierre whose visions of Indiana's future were years ahead of his time.*

HELP YOUR FELLOW AMERICANS  
EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT  
THEIR COUNTRY IN WAYS WHICH  
SEEM APPROPRIATE TO THEM.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SOME OF THE BEST CONTRIBU-  
TIONS MADE TO PROGRAMS ARE  
THOSE DONE SPONTANEOUSLY BY  
INDIVIDUALS. ENCOURAGE THEM.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THESE

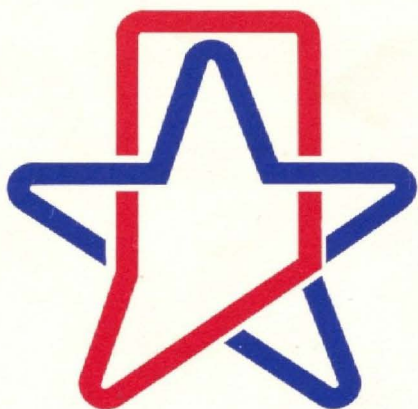
ALMOST  
ALL PROGRAMS  
MENTIONED IN  
THIS BROCHURE  
REQUIRE MORE WORK  
THAN MONEY!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

YOUR OWN PLANNING GROUP  
KNOWS BEST WHAT YOUR COM-  
MUNITY NEEDS AND WILL SUP-  
PORT. BUT NOTHING MUCH WILL  
BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT EN-  
THUSIASM.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

REMEMBER, MOST BUSY PEOPLE  
MUST PLAN FAR IN ADVANCE. NOW  
IS THE TIME.



**INDIANA AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL EMBLEM**